



DECEMBER 2024 | ISSUE 3

THE PENNRIDGE PULSE

Showcasing the Highlights in the Pennridge School District

A Message from the Superintendent..

Dear Pennridge School District Community,

On behalf of nearly 7,000 students and close to 1,300 dedicated teachers, administrators, and support staff, welcome to another edition of the “Pennridge Pulse” Newsletter.

As Superintendent, I am committed to fostering a “Culture of Excellence,” where every decision is guided by our mission to prioritize students and the quality of our educational programs. Excellence in Pennridge means not only academic rigor but also a commitment to social and emotional development, ensuring that each student is equipped to meet the challenges of an evolving world. Together with an exceptional team, we are dedicated to providing a safe, nurturing environment where every child can academically thrive. Our goals focus on holistic student development, nurturing a well-rounded education that emphasizes critical thinking, effective communication, collaboration, and creativity—the essential 4 C’s. We are proud to offer a rigorous, future-ready curriculum that integrates technology, promotes global awareness, and prepares students to lead with confidence and purpose. Our dedicated, highly qualified staff is unmatched.

This “Pennridge Pulse” newsletter is filled with many of the amazing events that happened in our schools over the first few months of the 2024-2025 School Year. Enjoy reading the stories submitted by our school staff members about our students and programs. I think you will quickly see why we are so #PennridgeProud of what happens each day in all of our classrooms.

Semper Fidelis,

Angelo G. Berrios III
Superintendent of Pennridge Schools



PENNRIDGE JUNIOR IS A PUBLISHED AUTHOR TELLING EVERYONE TO “JUST BE YOU!”

Pennridge High School 11th Grade Student Lynzi Allen says she is, “excited to announce that my book, Just Be You, is now available for purchase on Amazon! This book has been a labor of love, and I am thrilled to share it with all of you!

My greatest hope is that my book inspires young readers to cherish their uniqueness and recognize the beauty in those around them. It’s a celebration of individuality, and I can’t wait for you to read it!

or brightening others’ holidays!!”

Lynzi is also part of the Miss American Teen Scholarship program as the reigning Miss Greater Reading Teen and competed for the Miss Teen Pennsylvania scholarship last year.



GERMAN CLUB CREATES ORNAMENTS FOR GRAND VIEW HOSPITAL

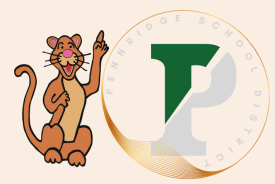
The German club members and friends from all over the District gathered at the high school to create Christmas ornaments, which will be given to patients who need to spend the holidays at Grand View Hospital! It was a wonderful gathering of students from eighth grade German I students (from all middle schools) to our most experienced German V students and everyone in between. Congratulations to all for brightening others' holidays!!



PENNRIDGE HIGH SCHOOL



WEST ROCKHILL ELEMENTARY



A thankful feast and some precious visitors

The Life Skills and Autistic Support Annual Thanksgiving Feast once again was a huge success! Students participated in a Community Based Instruction activity, where they traveled to BJ's in Quakertown to shop for ingredients needed for the annual Thanksgiving Feast. This trip afforded the students an opportunity to learn how to navigate a store, interact with people in the community, locate items on the grocery list, and buy the necessary items. The students followed visual recipes to make the food and used skills that have been taught in therapies such as rolling and stirring to follow the recipes. The food was served to families and administrators.



West Rockhill's P.R.I.D.E. Assembly

Students at West Rockhill show their Mountain Lion P.R.I.D.E. by being **P**olite, **R**esponsible, **I**ncluding Others, **D**emonstrating Safety, and showing **E**mpathy to others. Back by popular demand, West Rockhill continues to award Marvelous 100 Club tickets to those students who go above and beyond demonstrating each of the five P.R.I.D.E. pillars, listed above. During our November 8th P.R.I.D.E. Assembly, forty-eight West Rockhill Mountain Lions were recognized for going above and beyond demonstrating Politeness during the months of August, September and October.

All students were celebrated for their positive choices in addition to special recognitions for "Marvelous 100 Club" winners which are staff-nominated students that went above and beyond demonstrating politeness. A leadership team of fifth graders along with the positive behavior support team hosted an energy-filled assembly reflecting on all of the polite choices made this year and have set their sights on R which is being responsible! Students and staff look forward to focusing on this very important trait that allow everyone to learn and have fun at West Rockhill! ring the months of August, September and October.



SELLERSVILLE ELEMENTARY

S.H.A.R.K. Behavior is Best!

Sellersville Elementary students have been working very diligently to earn SHARK tickets this year! SHARK stands for Self-Responsible, Honest, Always Positive, Respectful and Kind.

These are the traits that can earn students in grades 1-5 individual tickets and in kindergarten group tickets. This year students could purchase some amazing prizes for their tickets. We have a monthly raffle that they can buy into for a mystery prize and a monthly activity that they can select as well.

So far this year, we have had a full-fledged carnival and a drive-in movie theater. Over 150 students selected to participate in each of these activities. At the carnival, we played games and then earned a fidget prize for playing along.

During the drive-in we watched some movie shorts and enjoyed popcorn as we sat in our "cars". There are many more exciting events to earn this year, including friendship bracelet making, a snow activity, the Winter Extravaganza, An inside snowball fight, a kickball tournament and the end of the year super raffle! We look forward to having everyone participate in these different activities to celebrate their SHARK successes!



Sellersville also held their annual Book Bash event! This year they held the event in the gym since it was supposed to rain! This event is amazing as all the books are donated to us and then we sell them to other families for 25 cents a book. We were able to transfer over 1,500 books into the hands of new readers. We thank everyone for their donations, and we thank all of the families who came to support the event and purchase "new" books for their home libraries! A special thank you to Mrs. Otto and Mr. Phy for the organization and set up of this event!

Thank you to all the staff who participated as well in the many aspects of this event!



GUTH ELEMENTARY

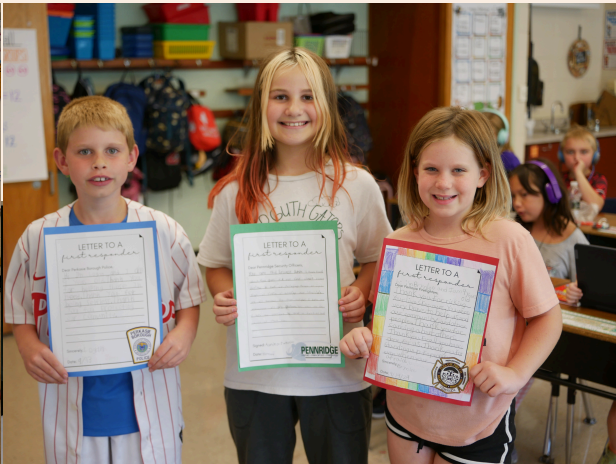
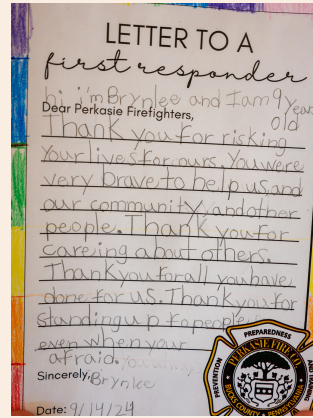
Guth Elementary School Honors First Responders with Letters of Gratitude.



Third-grade students at Guth Elementary School wrote heartfelt letters of gratitude as part of a learning activity to commemorate September 11. Through this project, the students reflected on the bravery and service of first responders.

Once the letters were written, local members of the Perkasie police and fire departments were invited to Guth, where they received the students' letters and were recognized by the student authors.

The letters were written with the guidance of the third-grade teachers at Guth: Mrs. Cristina Snell, Mrs. Lauren Koehler, and Miss Casie Csondor. The ceremony featured selected students reading their letters and then thanking these local heroes in person.



DEIBLER ELEMENTARY

A full Fall of Activity at Deibler



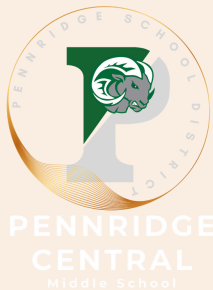
The Deibler Dolphins have been very busy this Fall!

During Fire Prevention Week in October, we had representatives from our local Fire Company teach our students about how to protect themselves and service a fire. The demonstrations were awesome and it was great to see many former Pennridge students and Pennride Parents who protect us all from the dangers of fires!

In November, Deibler honored Veterans in several ways. One way was by sending personalized thank you letters to veterans in our community. We asked families to send in names and addresses of veterans they wanted us to thank, and student council members hand-wrote the letters. Our students were thrilled to send thank you letters to 120 veterans!

On Veteran's Day, all of our students and staff gathered outside the school to wave hundreds of American flags donated by our local State Legislators and we spelled out the word, "Thanks" on our field as a way to thank all Veterans for their service to our country.





CENTRAL MIDDLE SCHOOL

Celebrating Students and Staff is CENTRAL to the daily mission here!

In November, Pennridge Central Middle School's Student Council hosted our annual Turkey Trot. The purpose for this event is to raise money for Franconia Heritage Restaurant's Thanksgiving Meal Program. Now in its 22nd year, this program provides warm Thanksgiving meals to those in need throughout the Pennridge and Souderton communities. The restaurant collaborates with local schools, the Penn Foundation, Indian Valley Opportunity Center, and church communities to gather names and delivery addresses of families in need. Volunteers then help prepare the meals and deliver them to homes on Thanksgiving Day.

Thanks to the generosity of Central's students, staff and families, a donation of \$1,079.37 was made to Franconia Heritage Restaurant. Additionally, Central's Service Learning Club created handmade Thanksgiving cards for the meal recipients. A heartfelt thank you to everyone who donated, participated, and supported this important cause. We would also like to thank Mrs. Ashworth, Mrs. Lilley, and Ms. Fortune AND all of our service learning students who created Thanksgiving Day cards for the families receiving meals from Franconia.



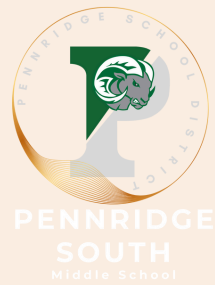
One of the stations that CMS students particularly enjoyed during Central's "Fall Festival Celebration" was the "Fun Fair Games" presented by Mr. Denny Gross. Mr. Gross has meticulously crafted and constructed over 30 fair games, which he generously shares at various local events within the Pennridge Community. Mr. Gross is affiliated with Blooming Glen Mennonite Church, where his sole mission is to "bring people together" in a fun and unique way. During his visit to CMS, Mr. Gross dedicated his time to demonstrating almost a dozen different games to the students. Some games were designed for individual participation, while others required effective communication and collaboration.

Dr. Cortellessa said, "Finding Mr. Gross was a gift, the games he introduced were not only FUN, but were also highly interactive, and engaging, and encouraged student groups to work as a team with individual members taking both leadership and "fellowship" roles. It was exciting, to watch thinking in action! All of the stations for fall fest supported our motto of Respect, Responsibility, and Safety – and furthered our belief in importance of fostering a sense of community among our students and staff."

SOUTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

THE ANNUAL PINK OUT WAS A HUGE SUCCESS!

On Friday, September 27th, South MS held its annual Pink-Out celebration. Students prepared ahead of time by organizing their teams for flag football, ordering specially designed Pink-Out t-shirts, and purchasing spectator tickets for the big game. Families also showed off their best Pink-Out-themed culinary creations to donate to our 2-day bake sale on Wednesday and Thursday of that week. When Friday finally arrived, the weather was less than cooperative for outdoor activities and we had to “drop back and punt” by changing up the competition to indoor dodgeball in the gym. Everyone still had a great time ducking and dodging to try to be the last one standing and claim victory. Special thanks go out to Ms. Meneeley and everyone who worked very hard to coordinate another successful Pink-Out event to raise awareness and money for Grand View Health’s breast cancer unit. South MS is proud to report that we donated \$2,500.00 to GVH and presented the check on Monday, November 18th. Our South MS team is the best!



On Friday, October 11th, South MS kicked off our PBIS (Positive Behavioral Interventions & Supports) program with fun obstacle-style inflatables for our students. It was a beautiful day that started off a bit chilly but was sunny and a great event for our kids to bounce off some extra energy. Our PBIS program is designed to acknowledge positive student behavior by earning points which can be used to “buy” prizes and participate in special field trips.



SEYLAR ELEMENTARY

First Graders Cook Up Some Sweet Success: Applesauce Adventure!



This fall, our first graders embarked on a delicious learning adventure: making homemade applesauce! This fun day included a hands-on lesson in teamwork, reading, and, of course, cooking.

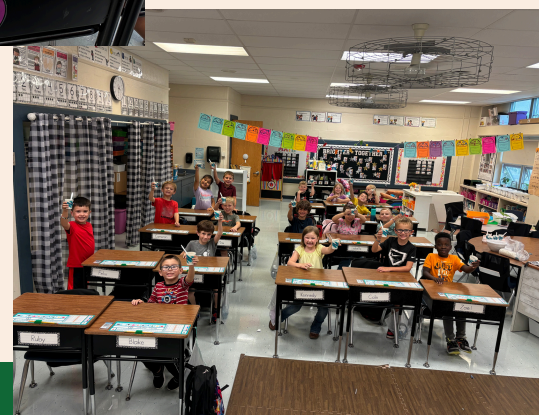
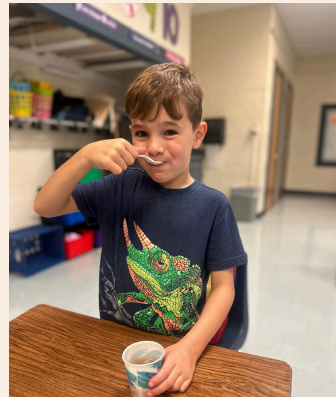
The day began with a collection of non-fiction books about apples and Johnny Appleseed. Students used their senses to observe the parts of an apple. They taste-tested three different types of apples and graphed their class favorites. The classes read a recipe together, practicing their reading skills while learning the steps for making applesauce. From start to finish, the students took turns reading the ingredients and instructions aloud, helping each other sound out words and make sense of the recipe. It was a great way to build confidence in reading while getting excited about the task ahead.

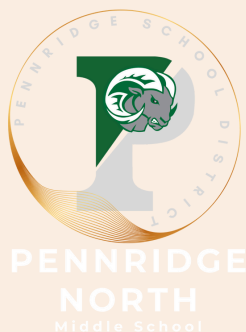
With the recipe in hand, the real fun began. Each student had a chance to chop apples with kid-friendly knives (under the watchful eye of our teachers, of course!) and carefully add them to the pot. The classrooms were filled with the sounds of chopping, stirring, and lots of giggles as they worked together, taking turns and sharing the task. Adding ingredients like cinnamon and sugar sparked a little curiosity—what would the apples taste like once everything was mixed together?

As the apples cooked, the classroom filled with the sweet scent of apples and spices. The first graders couldn't wait to taste the fruits of their labor. After the apples softened and everything blended together into a smooth, warm sauce, it was finally time for the best part—tasting! Every student got a cupful of the applesauce they'd helped create, and the smiles on their faces said it all. Sweet success!

This applesauce-making adventure wasn't just about cooking—it was about learning how to follow directions, share responsibility, and work as a team. And most importantly, it was a fun, memorable way for the first graders to enjoy the rewards of their hard work. We can't wait for the next culinary challenge!

Bon appétit, first grade!ar.





NORTH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Creating a Positive Climate and Culture for Our Students

To end our first marking period and start off our second on a positive note, the North Climate Committee planned a morning of fun and togetherness for the Tuesday before Thanksgiving Break. Each team rotated through three stations within the building for thirty minutes each. There was a hype-video for our December Lip-Sync Battle (right before Winter Break) and some group Karaoke singing in the auditorium. Students also participated in physical activity in the gym with our wellness teachers. Finally, all students participated in trivia in the cafe! The morning culminated with a Fall Sports Recognition Celebration.

After our morning of team and climate activities, we met back in the auditorium as a school to honor our Fall Sports Teams -- Football, Soccer, and Field Hockey -- for their hard work and effort all season long! Coaches and Team Captains spoke to the crowd, and we cheered them on! The morning ended with some Team against Team relays where all grade levels competed! Then it was off for Thanksgiving Break and time with families.



...and in a combined effort with the Pennridge School District initiative of "Sock-Tober," the Pennridge North MS 6th graders, donated granola bars and crackers working on a service project making Sock Rolls that will be distributed through The Giving Tree Families to individuals suffering from homelessness. Some special people will receive a pair of socks, a granola bar, and a pack of crackers with a sweet uplifting note. It was a huge success with students making over 900 rolls!!



GRASSE ELEMENTARY

It's always an 'Adventure' in Fun and Learning at Grasse!

The students and staff of Grasse Elementary loved "hanging around" as part of "Project Adventure". Project Adventure has been in the Pennridge School District Curriculum since 2002.

Grasse Teacher Kyle Jerrom says, "I enjoy seeing the students who might struggle in other areas excel in the program. It's special to be a part of individual and group accomplishments throughout different challenges during their elementary Health and Phys. Ed. Experience.

Project Adventure is a non-traditional physical education curriculum which is an experiential-based learning process. It focuses on cooperation and encourages students to take risks, accept challenges, and solve problems. Through group work, students learn to trust and support each other....and it's really cool too!



BEDMINSTER ELEMENTARY

Bedminster showing its B.E.S.T by surpassing its goals!

Bedminster students, staff, and volunteers excelled once again this year as they held a very successful Race for Education! On a beautiful Fall Day, students from all grades ran around the course in front of the proud and joyful eyes of staff and parents while surpassing their fundraising goal and collecting tens of thousands of dollars to support their school events and programs!

With the help of the Bedminster PTG group, this year's "race" was a huge success, and from the looks of all of the smiles, it was easy to see that the kids had an incredible day too!

Bedminster Bobcats are Positively "Pawsome!"

